

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01

CIEP-02 DRC-01 /109 W

----- 111085

O R 021610Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4618

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCLANT IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0895

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT IC

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ELECTION: FINAL RESULTS AND INITIAL REACTION OF
OF POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS

REF: REYKJAVIK 888

1. FINAL RESULTS OF JUNE 30 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	POPULAR VOTE	PERCENT POPULAR VOTE	NUMBER OF SEATS
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PARTY

INDEPENDENCE PARTY	48,758	42.7	25
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PROGRESSIVE PARTY 28,388 24.9 17

PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE 20,922 18.3 11

SOCIAL DEMOCRATS 10,321 9.1 5

OLL 5,244 4.6 2

OTHER 448 .4 0

115,566 VOTED OUT OF 127,501 ELIGIBLE FOR A 90.6 PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPATION.

2. WITH EXCEPTION OF OLL, ALL OTHER PARTY LEADERS, WHILE RECOGNIZING IP VICTORY, NEVERTHELESS CLAIMED VICTORIES FOR THEIR POLICIES AS WELL. IN RADIO INTERVIEW WITH PARTY LEADERS LAST NIGHT PP CHAIRMAN PRIME MINISTER OLAFUR JOHANNESSEN CONCEDED IP HAD DONE BETTER THAN HE EXPECTED. HE SAID PROGRESSIVES SHOULD NOT BE GREATLY DISAPPOINTED SINCE THEY HAD HELD ON TO PREVIOUS SUPPORT, AND ATTRIBUTED FAILURE OF PP TO MAKE NEW GAINS TO SABOTAGE OF MODRUVELLIR GROUP (ANTI-IDF YOUNG PROGRESSIVE GROUP WHICH BOLTED PARTY COUPLE MONTHS AGO). THORARINN THORARINSSON, PP FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN IN PREVIOUS PARLIAMENT, CLAIMED PP SHOWING AND REELECTION OF FONMIN EINAR AGUSTSSON VINDICATION AND SUPPORT FOR PP FOREIGN POLICY. IP CHAIRMAN GEIR HALLGRIMSSON SAID HIS PARTY HAD ACHIEVED ITS GREATEST VICTORY SINCE WW 11 AND SAID IT WAS ONLY NATURAL THAT IP WOULD BE ASKED TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. HALLGRIMSSON SAID IP WOULD CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON SAME ISSUES AS DURING CAMPAIGN; DEFENSE, EXTENSION OF FISHERIES LIMITS TO 200 MILES, AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. LATTER, HE SAID, REQUIRED COOPERATION OF LABOG AND EMPLOYERS TO SOLVE. PA CHAIRMAN RAGNAR ARNALDS SAID THAT WHILE IP WAS WINNER ON SUNDAY, IT WAS ONLY REGAINING SUPPORT IT HAD LOST DURING 60'S. ARNALDS WAS PLEASED WITH PA SHOWING, ESPECIALLY GAIN OF AN ALTHING SEAT. SDP CHAIRMAN GYLFI GISLASON CALLED IP CLEAR WINNER, AND WHILE REGRETTING LOSS OF SDP ALTHING SEAT, POINTED OUT PARTY'S PERFORMANCE WAS IMPROVEMENT OVER MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. HE MORE THAN OTHERS PUT STRESS ON MEANING OF ELECTION FOR DEFENSE ISSUE WITH CLAIM THAT THERE IS NO LONGER PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY BEHIND IDF PROPOSALS WHICH GOI SUBMITTED TO USG IN APRIL. KARVEL PALMASON AND MAGNUS T. OLAFSSON, ONLY REMAINING OLL LEGISLATORS, EXPRESSED

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DISAPPOINTMENT IN RESULTS, WHICH OLAFSSON BLAMED ON POOR PARTY ORGANIZATION. LEADERS FROM ALL PARTIES REFUSED SPECULATION ON FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

3. JULY 2 MORNING NEWSPAPERS, FIRST SINCE ELECTION, INCLUDED FOLLOWING EDITORIAL COMMENT: MORGUNBLADID (IP) SAID MAIN OUTCOME OF ELECTION WAS EARLY DISMISSAL OF LEFTIST GOVERNMENT AND SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR SECURITY AND DEFENSE OF ICELAND. PAPER SAID IP WAS CLEAR

WINNER AND WILL NATURALLY GET NOD IN FORMING NEW GOVERNMENT. WITHOUT PREDICTING NATURE OF NEW COALITION, MORGUNBLADID CITED RECENT CALL OF CHAIRMAN HALLGRIMSSON FOR BROAD NATIONAL COOPERATION IN SEEKING SOLUTION TO COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS. TIMINN (PP) SAYS PROGRESSIVES SHOWED STRENGTH AND UNITY IN THE FACE OF EFFORT BY DEFECTORS TO SPLIT PARTY AND CAN THEREFORE BE FAIRLY SATISFIED WITH ELECTION RESULTS. EDITORIAL SAYS IP UNDENIABLY MADE GAINS, BUT LESS THAN HOPED FOR, AND CONCLUDES THAT MUCH MAY NOW DEPEND ON WHAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATS DO, THJODVILJINN (PA) EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH OUTCOME, NOTING INCREASED PA POPULAR SUPPORT AROUND COUNTRY AND INCREASED ALTHING REPRESENTATION. PAPER CLAIMS PA IS NOW CLEARLY E UNIFSING PARTY AMONG LEFTIST ELEMENTS. IN SECOND EDITORIAL, THJODVILJINN CLAIMS ELECTION DEMONSTRATED CONFIDENCE IN POLICIES OF LEFTIST GOVERNMENT AND NOTING WHAT IT SEES AS SETBACK FOR SDP, SAYS RESULTS AMOUNT TO DEMAND THAT LEFTISTS STICK TOGETHER -- SOMETHING PP SHOULD BEAR IN MIND IF IT IS TEMPTED TO FORM COALITION WITH IP. ALTHYDUBLADID (SDP) SAID MAIN RESULT WAS FAILURE OF COALITION TO GET NEW MAJORITY AND TERMED IP CLEAR WINNER AND PARTY LIKELY TO FORM GOVERNMENT. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH CALL FOR REVIEW OF ELECTORAL SYSTEM, CITING WHAT IT FEELS IS INEQUITY THAT PP ELECTED 17 LEGISLATORS INSTEAD OF 15 WHICH PP SHARE OF POPULWR VOTE SHOULD HAVE PROVIDED.

4. COMMENT: POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS AND COMMENTATORS ARE AVOIDING CONTENTIOUS COMMENT AND ARE HESITANT TO MAKE PREDICTIONS ON FORMATION OF NEW GOVT BECAUSE OF LEFT/RIGHT STALEMATE WHICH OPENS UP SEVERAL COALITION POSSIBILITIES. NO ONE HAS YET RULED OUT ANOTHER LEFT COALITION ALTHOUGH MOST WILL ADMIT THIS PROBABLY UNLIKELY BECAUSE OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY GYLFI GISLASON AND BJORN JONSSON THAT SDP SHOULD PROBABLY NOT ALIGN ITSELF WITH EITHER LEFT OR RIGHT SO AS TO PERMIT FLEXIBILITY IN REBUILDING SDP. IRVINR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974REYKJA00895
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740175-0647
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740780/aaaacqzf.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: REYKJAVIK 888
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 OCT 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL ELECTION: FINAL RESULTS AND INITIAL REACTION OF OF POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS
TAGS: PINT, IC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005